



Missouri DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

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SURE Sign-up Underway

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) sign-up has begun. The SURE program is available to producers in counties or contiguous counties that have received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration due to a natural disaster in 2008. All counties in District 4 have a primary or contiguous 2008 Secretarial disaster designation except Johnson County. Producers in Johnson County must have suffered at least a 50% production loss in 2008 to be eligible for the program.

Producers in eligible counties must have had all crops, including hay, covered for the 2008 crop year. The only exclusion is crops that the producer certifies are De Minimis, less than 5% significance to total farming operation. County offices may require additional production evidence from producers on crops reported on county crop reports (FSA-578), but not reported to federal crop insurance. Also, for eligibility, at least one crop of economic significance on the farm must have a production loss of 10% or greater.

To initiate an application, please contact your local FSA office. Office personnel can access federal crop insurance information applicable to your farming operation and download it to SURE software for calculations.

Currently there is no deadline for the 2008 SURE sign-up, but it is advisable to begin your application early with the county office.

New form must be submitted to IRS

USDA recently announced a new process to ensure persons whose adjusted gross incomes exceed program limitations are not fraudulently receiving FSA payments.

Producers receiving payments under the 2008 Farm Bill are required to annually certify their average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) fell below the following limits:

- \$500,000 non-farm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs
- \$750,000 farm average AGI for Direct payments
- \$1 million non-farm average AGI for conservation programs.

Through implementation of a verification process, USDA and IRS are cooperating to ensure compliance with these limits and streamline payments to family farmers.

To remain eligible for certain 2009 and 2010 FSA payments, individuals and legal entities will be required to file a *2009 and/or 2010 Consent To Disclosure Of Tax Information* form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) with IRS. By filing this form, producers authorize IRS to disclose to USDA the accuracy of each producers answers regarding the limits listed above. IRS will report to USDA a "Yes" or "No" answer about each producer's eligibility, but **will not** provide actual tax data to USDA.

If you receive payments from FSA, you can request the forms from your local FSA office or go online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. All persons directly or indirectly receiving program benefits must submit a consent form to retain their USDA benefits subject to AGI provisions.

County Committee Member Spotlight

David Lueck owns and operates a 500 acre family farm in eastern Lafayette County that produces corn and soybeans and also includes a cow/calf operation. David is very active in local organizations including: Trinity Lutheran Church, MO Farm Bureau, and MO Young Farmers. David has been a member of the Lafayette County Committee since 2007, and served as committee chairman in 2009. David was re-elected to a second term on the Lafayette County Committee during the recent election, and will serve as committee chairman in 2010.

"My main reason for running for the Lafayette County FSA Committee is to donate back to agriculture for all that agriculture has done for me and my family," said David. Every member of David's family is involved in agriculture; his wife Debbie works for MFA, their son Brendon works for Dow Agri-Science in Indianapolis, and their son Justin works as a grain originator for a large co-op in Ulysses, KS.

Since joining the Lafayette County Committee, David has learned how FSA's various programs benefit producers throughout the county in different ways. "FSA has programs for every type of producer, from grain loans to livestock disaster programs to conservation programs, and the county committee system allows all types of producers in the county to be equally represented," said David. But what David enjoys most about being a part of the Lafayette County Committee is being able to share ideas with his fellow committee members and provide local input to administer FSA's programs.

"The ability to take national programs and bring them down to a local level is one of the main reasons why I feel that the County Committee system is important," David said.

Congratulations to David on his re-election, as well as all recently elected county committee members in District 4! County committees play a vital role in FSA program implementation.



"...the county committee system allows all types of producers in the county to be equally represented."

- David Lueck



District 4 Election Results

County	LAA	Elected Member
Benton	3	John Mehrens, Jr.
Carroll	1	Van Hudson
Chariton	1	William Wilkey
Cooper	2	Nancy Dianne Sites
Henry	3	Darlene Baskins
Howard	2	Fred Bockting, Jr.
Johnson	2	Lawrence Brunner
Lafayette	3	David Lueck
Pettis	1	Frank Dow
Randolph	2	Mike Heath
Ray/Clay	1	Dwight McMullen
Saline	2	Dale Miles



"...national programs... down to a local level..." - David Lueck



Marshall Women in Agriculture Conference March 12

The 7th Annual Women in Ag and Landowners Regional Conference will be held in Marshall on March 12th. For the second year, the conference will take place in the Martin Community Center at 1980 S Odell Avenue.

Keynote speaker Kristin Perry kicks off the conference at 9:00 a.m. Breakout sessions begin at 10:00 with lunch served at Noon. Providing entertainment during lunch will be folk musicians Dave Para & Cathy Barton. Two more rounds of breakout sessions follow lunch with the conference adjourning at 3:00 p.m.

To register, contact the Saline County Extension Center at 660.886.6908. Learn more at facebook.com/womeninag

Concordia Women Landowners Agriculture Conference a Success

The 10th annual Women Landowner's Ag Conference held November 12, 2009 in Concordia was another informative and entertaining event for area women. One hundred fifty participants from Johnson, Lafayette, Ray, and Clay counties gathered at the Concordia Community Center to listen, learn, and enjoy the day together.

The conference kicked off with a presentation by keynote speaker, Dr. Anne Deaton. Participants then proceeded to the first of 3 breakout sessions of their choice. Topics presented included livestock and forage management, estate planning, forestry, and other agriculture related topics. A dinner provided by Lafayette County Pork Producers was served, as an array of door prizes was awarded. The "Big Ten" Women Landowner's Ag Conference was again a success and plans are already underway for next year's event, which is scheduled for November 9, 2010.



▲ Parman Green

Do you have ruts in your fields from harvest?

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must be in compliance with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Contact should be made to the USDA Service Center prior to any land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance, which is recorded on form AD-1026.

If last fall's harvest left ruts in your fields that will require additional tillage to repair, make certain this extra tillage doesn't violate your conservation plan. Review your plan with NRCS before planting season gets underway.

Contacting your USDA Service Center prior to taking any action can save you time and money later, as HEL and WC violations can be very costly.

DISTRICT 4 OFFICES

Jasper Grant · District Director
Cooper County · 660.882.5647

BENTON

Annette Steelman · CED
535 N Hwy 65
Lincoln, MO 65338
660.547.2351
8:00-4:30 M-F

CARROLL

Charles Riley · CED
Annette Brandt · FLM
1405 Hwy 65 N, Suite A
Carrollton, MO 64633
660.542.8732
7:00-4:30 M-F

CHARITON

Julie Stoecklein · CED
Jared Weydert · Actg FLM
104 S JFK Ave
Keytesville, MO 65261
660.288.3279
7:45-4:30 M-F

COOPER

Randon Leathers · CED
17066 Highway 87
Boonville, MO 65233
660.882.5647
8:00-4:30 M-F

HENRY

William Spry · CED
1306 N 2nd Street
Clinton, MO 64735
660.885.5567
8:00-4:30 M-F

HOWARD

Brian McDonald · CED
743 State Route DD
Fayette, MO 65248
660.248.3384
7:45-4:30 M-F

JOHNSON

Kyle Meyer · CED
727 PCA Road Suite A
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660.747.8400
7:30-4:30 M-F

LAFAYETTE

Brett Gilland · CED
Brian Bagnell · FLM
120 W 19th Street
Higginsville, MO 64037
660.584.8732
8:00-4:30 M-F

PETTIS

Jay O'Bannon · CED
Steven Lair · FLM
1407 W 32nd Street
Sedalia, MO 65301
660.826.3339
8:00-4:30 M-F

RANDOLPH

Eddie McKeown · CED
2995 County Rd 1325
Moberly, MO 65270
660.263.1169
8:00-4:30 M-F

RAY · CLAY

Jarrell Foreman · CED
500 Wollard Blvd.
Richmond, MO 64085
816.776.5861
8:00-4:30 M-F

SALINE

Jared Singer · CED
704 N Miami
Marshall, MO 65340
660.886.7447
7:45-4:30 M-F

Landowner Designation

When selling a farm, base acres may be divided using the designation by landowner method. This method requires that the seller and buyer of the land agreed to how the base acres will be distributed. In order to use this method, both the buyer and seller must sign the FSA-155, unless a memorandum of understanding is provided, signed by both parties, outlining how base acres are to be distributed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Farm Loans Available

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender.

In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with the farm loan staff.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The 2008 Farm Bill introduced the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). This program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to disaster events.

An important thing to keep in mind is that producers must submit a notice of loss within 30 days of the livestock death, or 30 days after the end of the weather event. Additionally, information to substantiate the death and its cause must also be submitted. This may include a veterinarian's certification, photographs of the deceased livestock, rendering plant receipts, or other documentation that helps validate the death and cause.

To be eligible for LIP the livestock must be kept for commercial purposes. Livestock for recreational purposes are not eligible.